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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hirofumi SAKAMOTO

Group Art Unit: 1775

Application No.: 10/511,899

Examiner: G. BALDWIN

Filed: October 20, 2004

Docket No.: 121572

For: HONEYCOMB STRUCTURAL BODY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 12, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-12 are currently pending.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiners Baldwin and Zimmerman in the April 5, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully asserts that the U.S. 5,514,446 reference to Machida et al. disclosed in the January 12, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement has not been acknowledged. Acknowledgement thereof is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshinori (JP 55-147154). The Office Action also rejects claim 4 under

35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinori as applied to claims 1-3 above and further in view of Ogawa (JP Application No. JP 55032232). The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinori as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of Tomita (U.S. Patent No. 4,436,538). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Yoshinori teaches a honeycomb structure with a plurality of partition walls that are in a quadrilateral sectional shape defined with the walls being at right angles to each other with the portion of the honeycomb structure in the outer circumference being made thicker in order to increase the strength of the partition wall and thus increase compression strength.

However, Yoshinori does not teach such features. Specifically, the Abstract cited in the Office Action discloses only an inner portion of honeycomb structuring that may be considered to have a quadrilateral sectional shape defined with the walls being at right angles to each other. Yoshinori does not teach a honeycomb structure with an outer peripheral portion having the claimed characteristics. Indeed, Yoshinori teaches a peripheral section comprising an outer skin covering a set of radially extending ribs arranged about an inner peripheral tubular wall separating the peripheral portion from the inner honeycomb structure not a peripheral portion of a honeycomb structure wherein the cells of the honeycomb structure are defined by partition walls that are at right angles to each other. It is this outer structure, and not the inner honeycomb structure, that Yoshinori manipulates to solve the problem of exhaust gas pressure deforming the overall structure. Specifically, Yoshinori teaches strengthening the radial rib and wall structure by making the outside partition wall of the peripheral structure thicker than the inside partition wall of the peripheral structure.

Contrarily, the present application discloses strengthening peripheral honeycomb cells, e.g., 1-1b in Fig. 1(a) as compared with 4 in Fig. 1(b), so that the compression strength

of the outer honeycomb cells is greater than the compression strength of the inner honeycomb cells regardless of any added inner peripheral wall.

As such, Yoshinori does not teach or suggest a honeycomb structure as presently claimed, nor does any of the asserted art remedy said deficiencies. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 12, 2007

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